Christian anthropology as the study of humanity from Christian perspective draws from the Scripture and from Christian traditions, the teaching authority of the Church, as well as from the reflections of theologians. Since one of the major distinguishing features of human beings from other animals however well developed their instinct may be is human rationality, philosophical viewpoints about human knowing equally play an important part in the study of humanity. Little wonder, every philosophy develops an anthropological perspective. For this reason Christian anthropology is multifaceted. However, Christian anthropology has two basic points of reference (incarnation and redemption) each of which is a divine initiative. The first aspect is human being as created in the image of God. The second is this image as made fully manifest in Christ. Christian anthropology thus has a terminus a quo and a terminus ad quem – a point of departure and a point of arrival. In between these points is the reality of sin, of evil as distortion of God’s love and freedom to humankind.

This course looks at humanity from this Christian perspective from various theological viewpoints paying attention to the ancient sources of being human: biblical and early Christianity, Medieval and Modernity, the Philosophico-religious viewpoints and the Christian theological engagement with Postmodernity especially as it pertains to humanity as a community of men and women. It takes into consideration the unity of the human person from the perspective of the sciences as well as the dialectic of history: nature, sin and grace – the reality of progress (human orientation to the good), decline (human capacity for evil) and redemption, (through the gift of God’s love).